

## OPINION 1674

### THRESKIORNITHIDAE Poche, 1904 (Aves, Ciconiiformes): given precedence over PLATALEIDAE Bonaparte, 1838 and EUDOCIMIDAE Bonaparte, 1854

#### Ruling

(1) Under the plenary powers THRESKIORNITHIDAE Poche, 1904 and other family-group names based on *Threskiornis* Gray, 1842 are hereby given precedence over PLATALEIDAE Bonaparte, 1838 and EUDOCIMIDAE Bonaparte, 1854 and other family-group names based on *Platalea* Linnaeus, 1758 or *Eudocimus* Wagler, 1832, or on any other nominal genus placed in the same family-group taxon as *Threskiornis*.

(2) The following names are hereby placed on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology:

- (a) *Threskiornis* Gray, 1842 (gender: masculine), type species by original designation *Tantalus aethiopicus* Latham, 1790;
- (b) *Platalea* Linnaeus, 1758 (gender: feminine), type species by subsequent designation by Gray (1840) *Platalea leucorodia* Linnaeus, 1758;
- (c) *Eudocimus* Wagler, 1832 (gender: masculine), type species by subsequent designation by Reichenow (1877) *Scolopax rubra* Linnaeus, 1758.

(3) The following names are hereby placed on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology:

- (a) *aethiopicus* Latham, 1790, as published in the binomen *Tantalus aethiopicus* (specific name of the type species of *Threskiornis* Gray, 1842);
- (b) *leucorodia* Linnaeus, 1758, as published in the binomen *Platalea leucorodia* (specific name of the type species of *Platalea* Linnaeus, 1758);
- (c) *rubra* Linnaeus, 1758, as published in the binomen *Scolopax rubra* (specific name of the type species of *Eudocimus* Wagler, 1832).

(4) The following names are hereby placed on the Official List of Family-Group Names in Zoology:

- (a) THRESKIORNITHIDAE Poche, 1904 (type genus *Threskiornis* Gray, 1842), with the endorsement that it and other family-group names based on *Threskiornis* are to be given precedence over those based on *Platalea* Linnaeus, 1758, on *Eudocimus* Wagler, 1832, or on any other nominal genus placed in the same family-group taxon as *Threskiornis*;
- (b) PLATALEIDAE Bonaparte, 1838 (type genus *Platalea* Linnaeus, 1758), with the endorsement that it and other family-group names based on *Platalea* are not to be given priority over those based on *Threskiornis* Gray, 1842;
- (c) EUDOCIMIDAE Bonaparte, 1854 (type genus *Eudocimus* Wagler, 1832), with the endorsement that it and other family-group names based on *Eudocimus* are not to be given priority over those based on *Threskiornis* Gray, 1842.

#### History of Case 2136

An application to place the widely used name THRESKIORNITHIDAE on the Official List of Family-Group Names in Zoology and to give it precedence over PLATALEINAE Bonaparte, 1838 and other competing family-group names was received from Prof

E. Mayr (*Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts, U.S.A.*), Dr K.C. Parkes (*Carnegie Museum of Natural History, Pittsburgh, U.S.A.*) and the late Dr E. Eisenmann on 31 July 1975. After long delays the case was published in BZN 41: 240–244 (November 1984). Notice of the case was sent to appropriate journals.

Comments in opposition from Dr Kenneth E. Campbell (*Natural History Museum, Los Angeles, California, U.S.A.*), from Dr Allan R. Phillips (*San Nicolás de los Garza, Nuevo León, Mexico*) and from Dr Storrs L. Olson (*National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution, Washington D.C., U.S.A.*) were published in BZN 43: 10–13 (April 1986).

Prof Walter J. Bock (Chairman of the Standing Committee on Nomenclature of the International Ornithological Congress (SCON)). *Columbia University, New York, N.Y., U.S.A.*) reported on the support for the application from SCON following a Congress meeting in 1986 (published in BZN 43: 324; December 1986). No further action was taken pending a proposed comprehensive application from SCON on bird family-group names.

Following an Ornithological Congress in December 1990 Prof Bock (in litt., April 1991) pointed out that the name THRESKIORNITHIDAE was first proposed by Poche (1904, p. 498), and not by Richmond (1917) as was stated in the original application. The name should therefore be cited with this date. Poche's authorship rendered the name senior to PLEGADIDAE Mathews, 1913 and no action was necessary with regard to the latter name.

In his letter Prof Bock mentioned three further family-group names, not previously cited in this case, based on genera included in the THRESKIORNITHIDAE auctt. These were 'Geronticeae' (type genus *Geronticus* Wagler, 1832) and 'Phimoseae' (type genus *Phimosus* Wagler, 1832), both appearing in a table by Bonaparte (1855, p. 725), and FALCINELLINAE Des Murs, 1860 (pp. 428, 537; type genus *Falcinellus* Gray, 1840 (p. 67), which is a junior synonym of *Plegadis* Kaup, 1829, and also a junior homonym). Although senior to THRESKIORNITHIDAE Poche, 1904, not one of these three names has been used as valid for many years, and there seemed no reason to delay further the present case (primarily concerned with THRESKIORNITHIDAE and PLATALEIDAE) for them and their type genera (and the type species of these) to be considered *de novo*.

The original proposals (BZN 41: 244) did not ask for the placing of any type genera or species on the Official Lists, although they were mentioned in the preceding text. In keeping with normal practice they were included in revised proposals on the voting paper, together with the revised date for THRESKIORNITHIDAE.

### Decision of the Commission

On 1 September 1991 the members of the Commission were invited to vote on the revised proposals. At the close of the voting period on 1 December 1991 the votes were as follows:

Affirmative votes — 18: Bock, Cocks, Corliss, Hahn, Halvorsen, Kraus, Mahnert, Martins de Souza, Minelli, Nielsen, Nye, Ride, Savage, Schuster, Starobogatov, Trjapitzin, Uéno, Willink

Negative votes — 8: Bayer, Dupuis, Heppell, Holthuis, Kabata, Lehtinen, Macpherson and Thompson.

No vote was received from Cogger.

Holthuis commented: 'The strict use of priority here is the safest, simplest, least messy and most logical solution. *Platalea* and PLATALEIDAE are well-known names. Each time family names based on genera of this group published between 1838 and 1904 are found, the Commission has to act. I cannot accept the phrase 'on any other nominal genus...' in revised proposal (1)'. Kabata commented: 'The opposing comments of Campbell, Phillips and Storrs seemed to me quite compelling and I share the views of these three commentators'. Thompson commented: 'Given that the ornithological community is divided on this question, it is best to follow the Principle of Priority'.

### Original references

The following are the original references to the names placed on Official Lists by the ruling given in the present Opinion:

*aethiopicus*. *Tantalus*, Latham, 1790, *Index Ornithologicus, sive Systema Ornithologiae*.... vol. 2, p. 706.

EUDOCIMINAE Bonaparte, 1854, *Annales des Sciences Naturelles*, Zoologie, (4)1(1): 142.

*Eudocimus* Wagler, 1832, *Isis (von Oken)*, p. 1232.

*leucorodia*, *Platalea*, Linnaeus, 1758, *Systema Naturae*, Ed. 10, vol. 1, p. 139.

*Platalea* Linnaeus, 1758, *Systema Naturae*, Ed. 10, vol. 1, p. 139.

PLATALEINAE Bonaparte, 1838, *A geographical and comparative list of the birds of Europe and North America*, p. 48.

*rubra*, *Scolopax*. Linnaeus, 1758, *Systema Naturae*, Ed. 10, vol. 1, p. 145.

*Threskiornis* G.R. Gray, 1842, *Appendix to a list of the genera of birds*, p. 13.

THRESKIORNITHIDAE Poche, 1904, *Zoologischer Anzeiger*, 27: 498.

The following is the reference for the designation of *Platalea leucorodia* Linnaeus, 1758 as the type species of the nominal genus *Platalea* Linnaeus, 1758:

Gray, G.R. 1840. *A list of the genera of birds, with an indication of the typical species of each genus*, p. 67.

The following is the reference for the designation of *Scolopax rubra* Linnaeus, 1758 as the type species of the nominal genus *Eudocimus* Wagler, 1832:

Reichenow, A. 1877. *Journal für Ornithologie*, 25(2): 145.

Other references mentioned in the Opinion are:

Bonaparte, Prince C.-L. 1855. Tableaux synoptiques de l'ordre des Hérons. *Comptes Rendus Hebdomadaires des Séances de l'Académie des Sciences*, 40: 718-725.

Des Murs, O. 1860. *Traité générale d'ologie ornithologique au point de vue de la classification*. xix, 640 pp. Klincksieck, Paris.